GREENBELT
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An Independent Newspaper

Inside Stories

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City Celebrates Fourth of July With Traditions, New Festivities

by Cam Crossett

For generations, Greenbelt's annual Fourth of July fireworks have served as one of the city's signature traditions, drawing thousands of residents and visitors to Greenbelt Lake for an evening of patriotic celebration, community gathering and one of Maryland's few remaining municipal fireworks displays.

While many surrounding communities have discontinued their Independence Day fireworks shows, Greenbelt continues the tradition, making the celebration a destination for families across Prince George's County and beyond.

"I know there aren't that many big fireworks displays in the immediate vicinity anymore," said Public Information Officer James Wisniewski. "A lot of surrounding municipalities have discontinued their fireworks, so I think a lot of people – not just Greenbelters, but people from surrounding areas – come to our fireworks because there aren't many around."

Wisniewski said Greenbelt Lake offers a strong viewing experience. "The location of the Lake is a pretty good spectacle," he said. "Everyone gets a good view of the fireworks."

This year's celebration includes a patriotic addition commemorating America's 250th anniversary.

See **FESTIVITIES**, page 6

July 4th Schedule

4 p.m. – Reading of the Declaration of Independence

4:30 p.m. – Singing of the national anthem

4:45-5:30 p.m. – Live music: Pocket Change

5:45-7:15 p.m. – Live music: Greenbelt HONK! Situation

7:15-8:15 p.m. – Live DJ

9 p.m. – Fireworks over Buddy Attick Park

Greenbelt Offers Options: A Quiet Fourth on the Third

by Cam Crossett

The city is giving residents two ways to celebrate Independence Day this year: a new community-focused event on Friday, July 3 and the annual fireworks celebration at Buddy Attick Park on Saturday, July 4 as part of the nationwide commemoration marking the nation's 250th anniversary.

Chill-ebration Friday

The festivities begin on Friday with the city's inaugural Independence Day Chill-ebration, a quieter alternative designed for families with young children, individuals with sensory sensitivities, nervous pets and anyone who prefers celebrating without fireworks. The event will be held from 3 to 8 p.m. at Roosevelt Center and the Greenbelt Cinema.

Activities include art projects at 3 p.m., a 4 p.m. film screening, a community drum circle from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., a performance by local favorite Honk! Situation at 5:30 p.m. and a live DJ with community mingling from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Captain Gulledge of the Greenbelt Police Department said the city created Chill-ebration after listening to residents' feedback and looking for ways to make Independence Day more inclusive.

See **QUIET 4TH**, page 7

One Month In, City Stop-sign Cameras Draw Mixed Reviews

by Charlotte Ormond

More than 11,000 stop-sign camera citations were issued during the first month of Greenbelt's new stop-sign camera enforcement, generating more than $73,000 in paid fines. The program has drawn mixed reactions from residents, particularly over the $40 fines issued to drivers who fail to come to a complete stop.

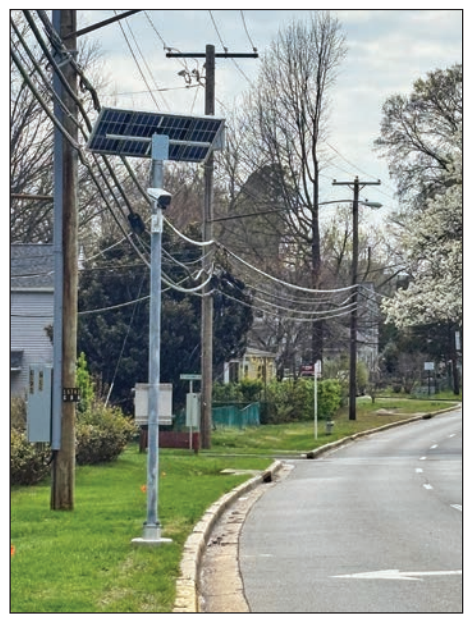

PHOTO BY LAURA CHARLESTON

A stop sign camera on Southway

The city partnered with Obvio, which uses advanced AI models to measure a vehicle's speed when passing through an intersection. Although state law requires a full stop, the city employs a 4 mph threshold before issuing violations, along with a review by a city employee. There is no time requirement for how long a vehicle must be stopped; instead, a citation is issued if a vehicle travels through the stop sign at four or more miles per hour.

During May, Greenbelt issued 11,066 citations, according to the city's financial report. Drivers paid 1,835 stop-sign camera citations so far, generating $73,400 in fines, of which $37,434 was distributed to the City of Greenbelt. For each citation, $8.50 is returned to Obvio, along with $1,000 per month for each active camera. Despite the money collected in fines, the program still had $79,500 in unrecovered costs at the end of May, due partly to the costs of the warning letters the city issued for the month of April.

The city conducted a warning phase throughout the month of April prior to the official roll-out. During this phase, vehicles

See **CAMERAS**, page 11

Who Should Be Greenbelt's 2026 Outstanding Citizen?

by Tom Jones

With the arrival of July, the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival is just two months away. Since 1973, the Festival includes a unique Greenbelt tradition: announcing the annual Outstanding Citizen. Greenbelt annually celebrates one of its most generous volunteers at the Labor Day Festival, on a permanent plaque in the Community Center and as Labor Day Parade Grand Marshal.

The Outstanding Citizen Committee needs your help to identify someone deserving this honor. Nominees must be volunteers: elected officials and paid employees are not eligible. If you know someone who stands out among our many community organizations, who demonstrates cooperation, enthusiasm, leadership and concern for others, send your nomination now. A nomination form is provided in this paper on page 6, but you're also welcome to submit a letter or email as long as it includes your name, your nominee's name and why you're nominating them. Nominations may be submitted until Saturday, August 1 to Tom Jones, Outstanding Citizen Committee, 1 Woodland Way Unit C, Greenbelt MD 20770, or emailed to OutstandingCitizenGB@gmail.com.

The Outstanding Citizen for 2025 is Robert Goldberg-Strassler, who founded Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness and volunteers for several other organizations. Prior Outstanding Citizens have been involved in a wide variety of volunteer work, including supporting sports, youth groups, senior citizen programs and the News Review. Along with countless volunteers, Outstanding Citizens

See **CITIZEN**, page 6

What Goes On

Monday, July 6
7:30 p.m., City Council Worksession: 60 percent Design Plan for the Hanover Parkway Bicycle Facility, Municipal Building
Wednesday, July 8
7:30 p.m., Advisory Board Interviews, Special Meeting/ Closed Session: Personnel Matters (virtual)

See the city ad on page 5 or the meetings calendar at greenbeltmd.gov for more information.

William Bayly Is Greenbelt's Forgotten Revolutionary Patriot

by Alan Virta

In 1824, just two years shy of the 50th anniversary of American independence, a patriot of the Revolution breathed his last on a farm in what is now Greenbelt Park. He was William Bayly, surveyor, merchant, farmer, state legislator, justice of the peace, member of Maryland's first constitutional convention and captain of a militia company during the Revolution.

PHOTO BY ALAN VIRTA

William Bayly's property is now Greenbelt Park.

His farm here was his last home after a peripatetic life that led him from his birthplace in Fairfax County, Va., to Georgetown in Montgomery County (later Washington, D.C.), Blue Plains and Silver Hill in Prince George's County and finally to Greenbelt, then an unnamed rural locality described simply as a place "near Bladensburg." He became a man of great wealth and high social status, reportedly socialized with George Washington, yet spent his last years in modest circumstances. His life also illustrates one of the fundamental contradictions of the American Revolution: it won

See **BAYLY**, page 8

Letters to the Editor

Stop Sign Ticket: An Unpleasant Price

I watched the council meeting where Police Chief Bowers made the presentation about traffic cameras in Greenbelt. I was particularly interested because I'd recently received a surprise Takoma Park stop sign ticket (at a location I've stopped at for years) for $40 + $3 "convenience fee" from a California collector.

Since receiving the Takoma Park ticket and learning that Greenbelt has installed stop sign cameras, I try to be aware to carefully stop. No matter which way I go from my GHI home, I encounter many stop signs. Apparently I wasn't careful enough last Saturday at Southway and Ridge. I received a ticket in today's mail for passing through that sign.

I had looked up the percentage of fines the collector keeps, in this case the cleverly-named company, Let's Drive Safer of San Carlos, Calif. I don't remember the number now, but it is significant. I went to the company's website, saw the video of my not dead stop and I will pay the fine and the fee (not mentioned until it appears at the payment link).

However, I am not happy, and I do not believe that these stop sign cameras actually increase safety. It looks to me like sales staff from Let's Drive Safer did a good job of enrolling small Maryland communities all around us, and we citizens are paying an unpleasant price. It's not just the money, it's more of today's unpleasant vibe. Let's Drive Safer's return address says "Serving communities across Maryland." We must be aware that Greenbelt is but one of the local communities "served" by cameras and collections as the company profits.

Jane Huntington

City's Double Standard For Rescue Cats

In mid-June a young (6-month-ish) starving black-and-white tuxedo cat with sparkling yellow eyes showed up under my birdfeeder. I called the city shelter to see if

See **LETTERS**, page 11

Corrections

In last week's issue a photo of Mike Davis campaigning for Terence Clegg, candidate for Board of Education, was misidentified as Clegg. A photo of Clegg appears on page 6 of this issue.

Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

Rose of Nevada

Three decades ago, the Rose of Nevada vanished at sea, along with its crew. Now, it has returned. In a remote fishing village, its reappearance is embraced as an auspicious sign, with the local citizens convinced the luck of their economically devastated community may turn, if only the ship sails again. Joining the crew are Nick (George MacKay), desperate to provide for his young family, and Liam (Callum Turner), a mysterious drifter eager to escape his past. After a successful voyage, they return to harbor, only to find that nothing is as they remember it. Shooting on a 16mm Bolex camera and constructing all the sound in post-production, Mark Jenkin writes, directs, edits and scores a haunting and hallucinatory time-travel mystery that further solidifies him as one of the most distinct, singular artists working in film today. Jenkin conducts a cinematic séance, conjuring a portal into another world that forces us to confront the past and our relationship to it.

Blazing Saddles

In this satirical take on Westerns, crafty railroad worker Bart (Cleavon Little) becomes the first black sheriff of Rock Ridge, a frontier town about to be destroyed to make way for a new railroad. Initially, the people of Rock Ridge harbor a racial bias toward their new leader. However, they warm to him after realizing that Bart and his perpetually drunk gunfighter friend (Gene Wilder) are the only defense against a wave of thugs sent to rid the town of its population.

The Producers

Down-and-out producer Max Bialystock (Zero Mostel), who was once the toast of Broadway, trades sexual favors with old ladies for cash contributions. Max's new accountant Leo Bloom (Gene Wilder), offhandedly muses that if Max found investors for a new production that turned into a flop, he could legally keep all the extra money. The duo begins to put together the worst play possible, titled Springtime for Hitler, with a terrible director and a hippie-freak star.

Young Frankenstein

Respected medical lecturer Dr. Frederick Frankenstein (Gene Wilder) learns that he has inherited his infamous grandfather's estate in Transylvania. Arriving at the castle, Dr. Frankenstein soon begins to recreate his grandfather's experiments with the help of Inga (Teri Garr) and servants Igor (Marty Feldman) and the fearsome Frau Blücher (Cloris Leachman). After he creates his own monster (Peter Boyle), new complications ensue with the arrival of the doctor's fiancée, Elizabeth (Madeline Kahn).

The Great Dictator

After dedicated service in the Great War, a Jewish barber (Charles Chaplin) spends years in an army hospital recovering from his wounds, unaware of the simultaneous rise of fascist dictator Adenoid Hynkel (also Chaplin) and his anti-Semitic policies. When the barber, who bears a remarkable resemblance to Hynkel, returns to his quiet neighborhood, he is stunned by the brutal changes and recklessly joins a beautiful girl (Paulette Goddard) and her neighbors in rebelling.

Alvin and the Chipmunks

Musical but mischievous chipmunks Alvin, Simon and Theodore wreak havoc in the life of songwriter Dave Seville (Antti Jaakola).

greenbelt CINEMA

Greenbelt Cinema
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbeltcinema.org

Members always $7.00!
Member kids are always FREE!

After 5 PM: adults $10, kids $7, senior/student/military $9

Before 5 PM:
general admission $8, kids $6

OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES:
JULY 3rd - 9th

Greenbelt Independence Day Chill-ebration
Free Animated Shorts
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 4-4:30 PM

Rose of Nevada (NR)
(CC) (DVS) (2025) (114 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 5:30 PM
Sat. 7:50 PM
Mon. 6:50 PM (OC)
Tues. 7:15 PM
Wed. 7:15 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 8:25 PM
Sat. 5:00 PM
Sun. 3:45 PM, 6:25 PM
Thurs. 7:40 PM

Blazing Saddles (R)
(CC) (DVS) (1974) (98 mins)
Celebrating Mel Brooks' 100th Birthday
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 8:15 PM
Mon. 4:25 PM
Thurs. 5:30 PM

The Producers
(PG) (1967) (88 mins)
Celebrating Mel Brooks' 100th Birthday
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sun. 3:30 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 6:00 PM
Tue. 7:30 PM

Young Frankenstein
(PG) (1974) (106 mins)
Celebrating Mel Brooks' 100th Birthday
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sat. 5:15 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Mon. 4:10 PM
Wed. 7:30 PM

The Great Dictator
(G) (1940) (125 mins)
Cinema Classic
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Mon. 1:00 PM
Thurs. 8:00 PM

Alvin and the Chipmunks
(PG) (2007) (90 mins)
School's Out! - FREE
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Thurs. 1:00 PM

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:
- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All letters to the editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 5 p.m. Co-op dropbox: Classified ads with payment only.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: $55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Tuesday, 2 - 4 p.m.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the Municipal Building.

Community Events

At the Library

All county libraries will be closed Saturday, July 4 and Sunday, July 5 for the Independence Day holiday. Greenbelt Library's regular hours are Mondays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays, noon to 8 p.m.; Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sundays, 1 to 5 p.m.

Storytimes

Tuesday, July 7, 12:15 p.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16645481.

Wednesday, July 8, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at pgcmls.info/event/1648679.

Thursday, July 9, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16486822.

Come join in for stories, songs, fingerplays and more. This engaging activity nurtures early literacy and sparks creativity, making it an unforgettable experience for little ones.

Movie and a Craft

Tuesday, July 7, 4:30 p.m., ages 5 to 12. Enjoy a free screening of A Bug's Life, Rated G, 98 minutes. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16523518.

Play and Grow

Wednesday, July 8, 6:30 p.m., ages newborn to 3. Stories, music, and activities for children with and without special needs. Presented by the PGCPS Infants and Toddlers Program for early intervention students and up to 12 community families. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16485735.

Craft and Create: Sketching

Thursday, July 9, 2 p.m., ages 13+. Come with your sketchbook or use our materials. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16815751.

American Legion Hosts Blood Drive July 6

Summer is here and the Red Cross is bracing for an annual seasonal shortage of blood, as regular donors go on vacation and miss blood drives. This shortage can affect lifesaving treatment at area hospitals. The American Legion is hosting a Red Cross blood drive on Monday, July 6. Appointments for donations of whole blood are available from 2:30 to 5:45 p.m. There are multiple appointments available for Power Red donations; height and weight restrictions apply.

There is currently a critical need for platelets, which can be donated at the Lanham Blood Donation Center, only three miles from Greenbelt on Annapolis Road. The center is open Sundays from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Mondays and Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Donating platelets takes about two hours.

Donors of all blood types — especially type O — are urged to make an appointment to help meet the needs of patients. Visit redcross.org to make an appointment.

Français, s'il Vous Plaît New Summer Location

For the months of July and August, the French conversation group that meets every Thursday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. will meet in Room 109 (Senior Activity Room) at the Community Center.

All ages and all levels of proficiency are welcome.

Bibliophiles Meet July 8

The Bibliophiles will hold their monthly book discussion on Wednesday, July 8 at 11 a.m. at the New Deal Café.

This month's book is No Country for Eight-Spot Butterflies: A Lyric Essay by Julian Aguon. This collection of essays blends memoir, manifesto and lyric essay, exploring themes of climate justice, indigenous rights, grief, love, joy and resilience through personal stories from Guam. The Chamorro activist and lawyer combines his life experiences with searing political analysis on topics like nuclear weapons and global warming, serving as a call for collective power and truth-telling in the face of environmental and colonial struggles.

The essays include stories from Aguon's childhood in Guam, reflections on his father's death and political commentary on the struggles of Pacific peoples against colonialism and environmental harm. The book is a call for justice, particularly for indigenous peoples, and a guide for finding a path forward through darkness and obfuscation.

Hunger Doesn't Take a Vacation

Greenbelt's shared commitment to community-powered hunger relief continues through Greenbelt PORCH. Food collection times for July are as scheduled below. Food placed on porches by the time listed will be picked up after that time.

Saturday, July 4 — by 9 a.m. at 23 and 24 Courts Ridge Road.

Monday, July 6 — by 5 p.m. at 18 Court Ridge Road.

Sunday, July 12 — by 11 a.m. at 1-8 Courts Ridge Road, 1-8 Courts Crescent Road and 1-2 Courts Westway.

Saturday, July 18 — by 9 a.m. for 14 and 15 Courts Laurel Hill Road.

Sunday, July 19 — by 4 p.m. for P.A.L. (PORCH at large) members (including former Woodland Hill donors). Email Robert Goldberg-Strassler by noon on July 18 at spreadruak@gmail.com and he will come to your porch.

Sunday, July 19 — by 4 p.m. for Eastway and 33 Court Ridge Road; by 5 p.m. for Lakeside Drive.

Saturday, July 25 — by 10 a.m. from Mathew Street to Megan Court, including Brett Place.

Cheri Glover's Art Plus Art Share

Visit the current exhibition at the Community Center Art Gallery, where Cheri Glover's vivid and joyful artwork is inspired by "nature, dreams and the beauty of being human." The Gallery is open daily: Monday through Friday evenings from 5 to 9 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. The show is on view through August 9. RSVP for a free artist talk with Glover on Friday, July 17 at 6 p.m. at sugeni.us/eEyT. Directly following the talk, community artists can gather for an Art Share, part of a series on monthly meet-ups. Sign up for the Art Share at sugeni.us/eE41. For more information about Greenbelt art programs, visit greenbelt.gov/arts. Programs are supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council.

Teen Actors Perform Shakespeare's Macbeth

Greenbelt Recreation's Camp Encore invites community members to attend free performances of Macbeth next week. Teen actors present Shakespeare's chilling tale of ruthless ambition, depicting the moral and societal devastation that results when people pursue power at any cost. The first show is on Wednesday, July 8 at 2 p.m. and the second show is on Thursday, July 9 at 7 p.m. The performance venue is the Greenbelt Arts Center. For free tickets, visit the Community Center business office or call 301-297-2208. Tickets will be available starting July 1. Registration is ongoing for Encore Session II, starting July 13. Campers will perform a brand-new show, Achilles and Patroklos. For information, see the Camp Guide at greenbeltmd.gov/676/Camps. For information about more Greenbelt Recreation arts programs, visit greenbeltmd.gov/arts. Programs are supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council.

Scholarship Open Deadline July 15

The Boxwood Village Civic Association offers an annual $500 scholarship to a current Boxwood Village resident. It is available to graduating high school seniors and full-time (at least 12 credit hours per semester) undergraduate students. The scholarship is partially funded through the proceeds from the Boxwood booth at the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival, the annual Boxwood yard sale and other activities.

The application form should be completed and returned by July 15.

A scholarship committee comprised of three Boxwood Village residents will choose this year's recipient. For further information or to pick up an application form, email Janet Mirsky at mirskyjanet@gmail.com.

Chess Club Nights for July

The Greenbelt Chess Club will meet on Tuesdays, July 14, 21 and 28. The meetings will occur at the Youth Center from 6:30 to 8:50 p.m. The club welcomes people of all ages and skill levels. To be added to the mailing list, visit tinyurl.com/ycy2nz4m and complete the brief form. Email questions to greenbeltchessclub@gmail.com.

Greenbelt Station July 12 Community Yard Sale

Residents throughout Greenbelt Station will participate in a neighborhood-wide yard sale on Sunday, July 12 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Shoppers can use an interactive Google Map (accessible by the QR code below) to plan their route. The event is organized by the Greenbelt Station Engaged Neighbors Committee as a fun way to connect neighbors and recycle gently used items. Parking is limited, so plan accordingly. Make this a great community event by parking legally and being respectful of residents by not blocking driveways or alleyways.

Used Books Sought For PTA's Book Sale

It's that time of year again. Declutter one's space and support a local elementary school. For those whose bookshelves are overflowing: the Greenbelt Elementary School PTA will be collecting used books to sell at the annual Labor Day Festival used book sale.

The PTA will accept book and media donations in Old Greenbelt on Saturdays, August 15 and 29 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at St. Hugh Catholic Church. All books will be accepted (except manuals, encyclopedias and dictionaries), as well as CDs, DVDs, records, puzzles and games. For more information, email booksalegespta@gmail.com or visit sites.google.com/view/gespta/events/labor-day-book-sale.

English, Spanish Story Time, SHL Rec Center

On Friday, July 10 at 10:30 a.m. at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness (RUAK) with the Prince George's County Memorial Library System, will present engaging, lively stories and activities in English and Spanish for young children and their caregivers to help build early literacy skills. This monthly program is an introduction to reading aloud to children as a way to instill the love of literature. After the readings, children can stay and play with balls in the gym. There will be free children's books and free healthy nutritious snacks. Come, and spread the word to friends and family.

Los Niños Leen y Juegan

El viernes 10 de julio a las 10:30 a.m. en el Centro Recreativo de Springhill Lake, RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) con el Sistema de Bibliotecas Conmemorativas del Condado de Prince George's presentarán interesantes historias y actividades divertidas en ingles y español para niños pequeños y sus cuidadores, para ayudar a desarrollar las habilidades de alfabetización temprana. Este programa mensual es una introducción a la lectura en voz alta a los niños como forma de inculcar el amor por la literatura. Después de las lecturas, los niños pueden quedarse y jugar con pelotas en el gimnasio. Habrán libros infantiles gratis y aperitivos saludables y nutritivos gratises. Como dijo un padre al irse, "Fue muy bueno!" Unete a nosotros, y corra la voz a amigos y familiares.

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

This Week at the New Deal Café

Celebrating 30 Years in Greenbelt! Try Our New Menu & Drinks!

BECOME A MEMBER!*

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD

Monday, 9am-9pm; Tuesday—Thursday, 9am - 10pm; Friday/Saturday, 9am – 12midnight; Sunday, 9am – 9pm

REMEMBER TO TIP OUR PERFORMERS - IT'S THE ONLY WAY THEY'RE PAID!

** * * RESERVATIONS: 301-474-5642 * * **

TH 7/02	FRI 7/03	SAT 7/04	SUN 7/05
Wolf's Blues Show & Sit-In Jam 6:30 - 10pm Big, bodacious boogie blues jam. Host: Wolf Crescenze	After Five Funhouse 8 - 11pm An unusual blend of American blues music with good ol' rock 'n roll	INDEPENDENCE DAY CLOSING EARLY (Time TBA) Enjoy the fireworks!	** NEW TO THE NDC ** The Acoustic Chicks Band 6 - 8pm Where genres and generations unite in melodic harmony

MON 7/06	TUES 7/07	WED 7/08	TH 7/09	New Deal Cafe
MONDAY MAUVENESS KARAOKE 6 - 9pm Live Karaoke Band!	S.A.W. Open Mic w/ Lynn Hollyfield 6 - 9:30pm Sign ups begin at 6pm; Open Mic starts at 6:30p	BIBLIOPHILES BOOK CLUB, 11a-1pm Kim's Grand Rounds - A Songwriters' Circle 7 - 9pm	Lulu's Fate 7 - 9pm A trio playing traditional Appalachian & country blues	RENEW OR BECOME A MEMBER OF THE NDC! See link below*

**Join NDC!* Go to NewDeal Cafe(dot) com, click on "ABOUT", then "BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW."*

FUNDING FOR THESE ADS PROVIDED BY A GENEROUS DONOR.

Obituaries

Miriam Laster

PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Miriam Laster

Miriam Laster, aged 95, died on Thursday, June 25, 2026, in Hackettstown, N.J. Born in Springfield, Mass., on July 6, 1930, Miriam was raised by her foster mother, Gertrude Messier, in Weston, Mass. After graduating from high school, she became the first in her family to attend university, receiving her bachelor's degree in English literature in 1951 from Radcliffe College (incorporated into Harvard College in 1999). She later earned her master's in medieval history from Catholic University.

Radcliffe was also the place where Miriam met her husband, Howard. They married in 1952 and spent the next three decades together until Howard's death in 1986. Miriam and Howard had four children together –Lisa, Jon, Jenny and Sally – whom they raised as Howard's academic career took them from the University of Maryland to the University of Iowa. Miriam was a star in university society, hailed as a creative genius for her cocktail and dinner parties, which were known for their diverse guest lists and vibrant conversations.

While Howard taught at the University of Maryland from 1956 to 1977, the Lasters lived in Greenbelt in a GHI home on Ridge Road for the first five years and on Lakeside Drive for the last 16 years.

The Lasters travelled extensively, which allowed Miriam to pursue her passion for art, architecture and history. She was also a dedicated amateur musician, excelling at the piano, harpsichord and recorder.

After her husband's death, Miriam moved to Norway, Maine, where she bought and refurbished an 18th century Greek Revival farmhouse. She decorated the house with a combination of whimsy and historical accuracy, a reflection of her own passions and personality.

Miriam spent her later years travelling the world and spending time with her seven grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. She was a "lightning-in-a-bottle" grandmother – adventurous, with a sharp sense of humor and a no-nonsense approach to life. She also loved animals and had several dogs and cats throughout her life.

Her two eldest children, Lisa and Jon, died in 2012 and 2009. Miriam is survived by her daughters Jenny (Alonzo) and Sally (David); her grandchildren Åse, Hanna, John, Joseph, Emma, Charlie and Linda; and her great-grandchildren.

A celebration of her life will be held on Tuesday, August 25, 2026 at 4 p.m. at Mattar's Bistro,1115 County Rd 517, Allamuchy Township, N.J.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that friends make memorial contributions to Americans United and Partners in Health.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Cochran Funeral Home, 905 High Street, Hackettstown, NJ 07840. For those wishing to leave online condolences for the family, visit cochranfuneral.com.

In Memoriam
John Henry Jones

My family first met John Henry Jones in November 1984 when we moved into an apartment in Lakeside North across the hall from John Henry, Elaine and their kids. They were like parents to us. Sara's best memory is all the vegetables he brought for our dinner table. They woke up at 3 a.m. one Thursday morning and took in our son so Sara and I could go to the hospital for the birth of our second son.

I remember that John Henry, getting a bit bald even in those days, always wore baseball caps. He was proud that he never bought one. He would find a hat on the side of the road and bring it home. Elaine would wash it, and he would wear it. I spent the summer of 1988 in Germany and one day while cycling I found a hat on the side of the road. He was delighted to get it when I returned home. Several years later we brought him a hat we had gotten in New Zealand. He seemed equally glad to get it, but I couldn't help thinking that he wished we had found one along the road, instead of buying it.

I think my favorite anecdote about John Henry Jones comes from the November 20, 2025 News Review, in the pictures about the Veteran's Day Celebration. Gov. Wes Moore spoke and mentioned John Henry, then 97 years old, who was in attendance. There is a picture of a number of people captioned, "Veteran John Henry Jones and others pose for a photo." One of the "others" is the Governor, and another is Mrs. Moore. When you are mentioned by name, and the Governor and First Lady are relegated to "others," you have arrived!

Rest in Peace, John Henry, and I hope you will enjoy as much happiness where you are as you brought everyone else here.

Bob Hindsley

Our Neighbors

We were saddened to learn of the death of Miriam Laster, who lived and raised her four children in Greenbelt from 1956 to 1977, with her husband, Howard, who taught at the University of Maryland. She was a noted hostess in university society.

Family and friends gathered from near and far to celebrate longtime Greenbelt resident Marj Donn's 95th birthday. Family came from California, New York, Ohio, South Carolina and Texas. A highlight of the day was a citation presented by Maryland Delegate Mary Lehman in appreciation for Marj being a champion of the environment, an activist for the rights of others and promoter of peace. Cheers to Marj for 95 years of making the world a better place!

Congratulations to former mayor J Davis on a Lifetime Achievement Award from Maryland Municipal League (MML) for her tireless work on behalf of the City of Greenbelt and her many years of service to the MML.

Send details of your news to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

Marj Donn's far-flung family gathers around her at her 95th birthday celebration.

Marj Donn receives a proclamation from Maryland Delegate Mary Lehman.

- Photos by Cindy Donn

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT
Mass Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
Community Center Room 114
15 Crescent Rd
cathcomgreenbelt.org
ALL ARE WELCOME!
A Roman Catholic Intentional Eucharistic Community
OR - Join us on ZOOM!
For ZOOM link:
CCG1985+owner@groups.io

Campfires, Hikes At Greenbelt Park

The National Park Service is offering weekly campfire programs at the Loop B Campfire Circle.

On Fridays at 7:30 p.m., the program is Welcome to Washington.

On Saturdays at 8 p.m., there is programming alternating between nature and history topics to coincide with the nation's 250th anniversary. On Saturday, July 4, the program, A Most Memorable Epocha, will be held at 5 p.m.

Also, on Sundays at 1 p.m., Hike with a Ranger meets at the Dogwood Trail parking lot. The ranger leads a nature hike focused on the flora and fauna of Greenbelt Park in a beautiful and picturesque setting.

Greenbelt Park is open every day from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. The Ranger Station is open from 8 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. The campground is open 24 hours a day, year-round, for registered campers and their guests.

Visit nps.gov/gree/planyourvisit/calendar.htm for more information.

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
Open hearts, Open Minds, Open doors
Find us on facebook.com/mowattumc
301-474-5410
Pastor Evelyn Romero
Worship Service, Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Core Values from Romans chapter 8.

St. John's Episcopal Church
11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704
301-937-4292 www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org
Welcomes you each Sunday for Worship & Sunday School at 10:00 AM

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
We Are an Open and Affirming Church
GREENBELT COMMUNITY CHURCH
One Hillside Road
Join Us Sunday
10:15 AM for Worship
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org
Rev. Aubra Love, Senior Pastor

Vision for America
VALUES THAT BIND
A Common Endeavor
Scan with cellphone camera to play on YouTube
Greenbelt Bahá'í Community
www.greenbeltbahais.org

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH
• Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am*, Sat 9am*
• Sunday Mass:
◦ Sat vigil 5pm*
◦ Sun 8am, 9:30am,11am
• Confessions Saturday 3pm – 4pm.
Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.
*Live streamed on Facebook and available on our YouTube page later.
CELEBRATE WITH US
135 Crescent Rd.
www.sthughofgrenoble.org

Mishkan Torah Congregation
10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Yael Fischman
A welcoming, inclusive, and friendly synagogue offers something for everyone: young, old, single, married, and both Jewish and interfaith families.
Services at 8:00pm Friday and 9:45am Saturday in person and on Zoom
For more information, visit MishkanTorah.org or call 301-474-4223
A Dual-Affiliated Reconstructionist and Conservative congregation
10 Ridge Rd, Greenbelt, MD 20770

City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

MEETINGS FOR JULY 6 - JULY 10

Monday, July 6, at 7:30 pm, **WORK SESSION - 60% DESIGN PLAN FOR THE HANOVER PARKWAY BICYCLE FACILITY - *Council Chambers***

Tuesday, July 7 at 3 pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TREES - *Public Works Building,*** *On the Agenda: Continued Discussion of Tree Pruning Issues*

Tuesday, July 7 at 7 pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ADVANCING PUBLIC SAFETY - *Greenbelt Community Center,*** *On the Agenda: Planning of teen focus groups as part of Invest in Our Youth Summit, Review of Police Dept submitted updated General Orders, Review of Greenbelt Resistant Network inquiries/concerns re: License Plate Readers*

Wednesday, July 8 at 7 pm, **SPECIAL MEETING/CLOSED SESSION – PERSONNEL MATTERS CM EVALUATION - *Virtual / in-person,* TENT.**

Wednesday, July 8 at 7:30 pm, **ADVISORY BOARD INTERVIEW - *Virtual***

Wednesday, July 8, Following Advisory Board Interviews, **SPECIAL MEETING/CLOSED SESSION – PERSONNEL MATTERS - *Virtual***

Thursday, July 9 at 7 pm, **CHARTER REVIEW TASK FORCE - *Council Chambers,*** *On the Agenda: TBD*

Thursday, July 9 at 7 pm, **COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD - *Virtual,*** *On the Agenda: TBD*

In advance, the hearing impaired are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

In accordance with Section 3-305(b)(1) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland, a closed session of the Greenbelt City Council will be held on Wednesday, July 8, 2026, at 7:00 pm, in Council Chambers of the Municipal Building and virtually via Zoom:1) to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.

The purpose of this meeting is 1) to discuss the City Manager's Evaluation.

**** The public may attend the Special Meeting of the City Council prior to the closed session and observe the vote of the Council to move into the closed session on Wednesday, July 8, 2026.***

- Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

OFFICIAL NOTICE

In accordance with Section 3-305(b)(1) and (8) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland, a closed session of the Greenbelt City Council will be held on Wednesday, July 8, 2026, immediately following the Advisory Board/Committee Interviews, in Council Chambers of the Municipal Building and virtually via Zoom:1) to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals; and 2) to consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.

The purpose of this meeting is 1) to address personnel matters over which this public body has jurisdiction; and 2) to consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.

**** The public may attend the Special Meeting of the City Council prior to the closed session and observe the vote of the Council to move into the closed session on Wednesday, July 8, 2026.***

- Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

BILINGUAL PRE-K STORY HOUR
HORA DE CUENTOS DE PREKÍNDER

Friday, July 10 | 10:30 - 11:30 am
Springhill Lake Recreation, 6101 Cherrywood Lane

Join us on the second Friday of every month!

Children Ages 0-5
Come and enjoy the wonderful work of storytelling and free health snacks. Friends & family are all welcome to attend.

Niños de 0-5 años
Ven y disfruta del maravilloso mundo de contar cuentos y bocadillos saludables por gratis. ¡Amigos y familiares bienvenidos!

This series is sponsored by RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness); Prince George's County Memorial Library System; Greenbelt Recreation, American Legion Auxillary, and Greenbelt COOP.

Contact joseph.vincent@gpcmls.info or spreadruak@gmail.com.

A majority (or quorum) of Greenbelt City Council members may attend community organization meetings, but no official Council action will be taken at these meetings. Please note that meeting locations may change after being published. For information on how to join these meetings, contact the respective organization directly.

CELEBRATE AMERICA'S 250TH IN GREENBELT!

INDEPENDENCE DAY CHILL-EBRATION
Friday, July 3 from 3 - 8 pm
Roosevelt Center, New Deal Cafe & Greenbelt Cinema

Looking for a quieter way to celebrate Independence Day? Join us for Greenbelt's Independence Day Chill-ebration, a community-focused event designed for families with young children, nervous pets, and anyone who prefers to celebrate without fireworks. Due to extreme heat, the Drum Circle and HONK! Situation performances have been moved inside the New Deal Cafe.

Enjoy an afternoon of activities including:
- 3 pm – Art Activities
- 4 pm – Film Screening
- 4:30 - 5:30 pm – Drum Circle
- 5:30 pm – HONK! Situation
- 6:30 - 8 pm – DJ & Mingling

GREENBELT INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION & FIREWORKS
Saturday, July 4 from 4 - 9 pm
Buddy Attick Lake Park

Celebrate America's 250th anniversary with a full day of family-friendly activities at Buddy Attick Lake Park, culminating with Greenbelt's annual fireworks display at 9 pm. The events preceding the fireworks display will be accompanied by a sign interpreter.

Visitors are encouraged to bring a picnic, take a walk around the lake, and enjoy the park throughout the day.

Special activities include:
- 4 pm – Reading of the Declaration of Independence
- 4:30 pm – Singing of the National Anthem
- 4:45 - 5:30 pm – Pocket Change Performance
- 5:45 - 7:15 pm – HONK! Situation
- 7:15 - 8:15 pm – Live DJ
- 9 pm – Fireworks Display

Please Note: Fireworks, firearms, alcohol, propane or gas grills (charcoal grills only), and drones are prohibited in the park. Failure to comply with park rules or directions from City staff and police may result in removal from the park and possible fines.

For additional event information, visit the City's Independence Day webpage at www.greenbeltmd.gov/july4.

GREENBELT PRIDE PARADE AND FESTIVAL

Saturday, July 11 from 10 am - 6 pm
Gardenway and Roosevelt Center

Celebrate Emerald City Pride 2026 at this full-day festival featuring live performances, community organizations, artists and makers, food vendors, interactive activities, and a vibrant Pride parade. Join the community for a day of celebration, connection, and fun for all ages.

GREENBELT CARES PROGRAMS

STRONGER MEMORY CLASSES
Tuesdays, July 7 through August 11, 1 - 2:30 pm
Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East

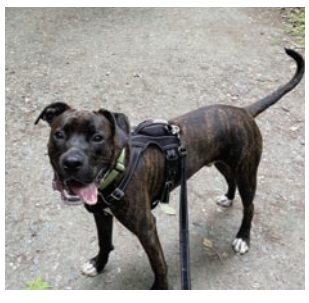
Participants will learn practical strategies to strengthen memory, stay mentally active, and connect with others in the community.

FREE - Registration is required. Final call for registration is June 15. To register, contact Cesar Herrera at 202-891-8071.

BACK TO SCHOOL HEALTH FAIR
Tuesday, August 18, 10 am - 1 pm
Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Lane

Meet organizations devoted to strengthening community connections - providing resources about health insurance, mental health services, and city educational programming. Free full health screenings (blood pressure, glucose, cholesterol, A1C), vision + hearing screenings, dental screenings, fun activities and more!

FEATURED PETS
BLU



Ready for Adoption?

Call (301) 474-6124

10-month-old Blu was surrendered to the shelter a few months ago when his owner could no longer care for him. When he's not smothering you in affection, Blu loves to play with toys and go on walks. He does great on the leash and is non-reactive – he just wants to say hi to everyone he sees (plus, his former owner said he really loves other dogs). Blu is also picking up very fast on training and has already mastered "sit".

If you're interested in adopting bright-eyed Blu, please email animalservices@greenbeltmd.gov or call 301-474-6124 for more information.

GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

Be sure to check out the City calendar for all up to date events at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.

* VOLUNTEER * VACANCIES * APPLY FOR A COMMITTEE OR BOARD TODAY!

Volunteering for City of Greenbelt Committees & Boards is an excellent opportunity to engage with your community and make a difference. Choose from a number of committees & boards such as the Advisory Committee on Education, Advisory Committee on Trees, Arts Advisory Board, Board of Appeals, Community Relations Advisory Board, Ethics Commission, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, Park and Recreation Advisory Board, Advisory Committee Advancing Public Safety, or Youth Advisory Committee and make a difference in Greenbelt!

Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today!

Call (301) 474-8000.

ARTS HAPPENINGS

Visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/arts for more information and many other opportunities!

Sign up for ARTFANS, a weekly e-newsletter, at www.greenbeltmd.gov/list.aspx

Camp Encore Performs Macbeth 7/8 at 2pm, 7/9 at 7pm (Greenbelt Arts Center) Teen actors present Shakespeare's chilling tale of ruthless ambition, depicting the moral and societal devastation that results when people pursue power at any cost. For FREE tickets, visit the Greenbelt Community Center business office or call (301) 397-2208. Seating is limited. Tickets available starting July 1.

Friends & Family Workshop: Felted Summer Harvest 7/10; 5:30-7:30pm (Greenbelt Community Center) This workshop is great for participants of all ages, and no experience is necessary! Adults and teens ages 12+ can learn to needle felt 2 dimensional shapes. Children under 12 can cut out wool felt, or learn to make pom poms. Registration required - see page 17 of the Summer Activity Guide. $5/$10.

MORE ARTS HAPPENING SOON

- **Art in the Park** 7/4; 4-6pm Buddy Attick Lake Park
- **Free Artist Talk with Cheri Glover** 7/17; 6-7pm Greenbelt Community Center RSVP at sugeni.us/eEyT.
- **July Art Share** 7/17; 7-8pm Greenbelt Community Center

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

In the City of Greenbelt, we remain committed to embracing and celebrating the diversity of all. As our nation undergoes change, feelings of pride, uncertainty, and even fear may arise. Yet, we stand firm in the pledge that has defined Greenbelt since its inception and will not falter.

Learn more at https://www.greenbeltmd.gov/government/know-your-rights-immigration-resources.

Follow the City of Greenbelt on Facebook and Twitter @cityofgreenbelt! For City information and events, visit www.greenbeltmd.gov

Election 2026

School Board Race Changes With Mail-in Vote Count

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

Mail-in ballots may make all the difference in the tight school board race. Though Terence J. Clegg remains securely the number one vote-getter, in this nonpartisan race the top two vote-getters progress to the general election in November. Last week, after all precincts reported and early voting was tallied, University of Maryland student and former student school board member Alvaro E. Ceron-Ruiz was in second place but, following subsequent mail-in vote counting, Caroline Decaire-Goldin, a former Prince George's County Public School teacher, a PGCPS parent and Director of Teaching and Learning in the DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education, was in second place at time of press.

Preliminary results the day after the election placed Clegg ahead with a secure lead and 45.64 percent of the vote, Ceron-Ruiz was in second place with 29 percent and Decaire-Goldin had 25.36 percent, but was only 77 votes behind Ceron-Ruiz.

As of close of business on Tuesday, June 30, Clegg had received an additional 1,157 votes, bringing his total to 3,129 and increasing his share of the vote to just over 47 percent. Ceron-Ruiz had received 455 votes through mail-in ballots, bringing his total to 1,686 (25.34 percent) and Decaire-Goldin received 782 mail-in votes, bringing her total to 1,839 (27.64 percent).

Following election day results, on her campaign's social media page, Decaire-Goldin had expressed disappointment, thanked supporters and said she woke up, went to work and continued to support policies and programs that support teachers and students. She later told the News Review she was taken by surprise when she saw Saturday night she had advanced in the rankings.

Currently, Decaire-Goldin has a lead of 143 votes over Ceron-Ruiz. However, mail-in ballots continue to be counted, the results are still unofficial and as yet no provisional ballots are included in the tally. A message from Ceron-Ruiz' campaign said they were awaiting the finalization of votes, as mail-in and provisional ballots continue to be counted.

This year's election results, which should be totaled within 10 days, must be finalized by Monday, July 6, due to the observance of the July 4 holiday on Friday.

PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Board of Education District 2 Candidate Alvaro Ceron-Ruiz on election day in Greenbelt

PHOTO COURTESY TERENCE CLEGG

Board of Education Candidate for District 2 Terence Clegg in Greenbelt during the election

PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Board of Education District 2 Candidate Caroline Decaire-Goldin (right) outside the Community Center with her mother, Deanna, on election day

PGCPS Summer Meals Program Announced

Thirteen open meal sites across the county, some near Greenbelt, will provide free meals to children and teens this summer.

The Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) Department of Food and Nutrition Services launched its annual Summer Meals Program on June 29, ensuring children and teens have access to nutritious meals while school is out of session. Free meals will be available for students enrolled in PGCPS summer programs at designated sites.

Starting July 1, all children and teens ages 18 and younger can receive free breakfast and lunch at five participating school-based open meal sites, regardless of enrollment in a summer program. Eight community-based open meal sites will begin serving free lunch on Tuesday, July 7.

No registration, identification or proof of residency is required. Meals are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Meals must be consumed on site and cannot be taken home.

Meal Schedule

July 1 to August 7. Breakfast and lunch available to all children and teens ages 18 and younger at school-based open meal sites. Hot meals will be served.

July 7 to August 6 (The Hyattsville Library site will also serve lunch on August 7). Lunch available to all children and teens ages 18 and younger at community-based open meal sites. Bagged meals will be served.

Summer Meal Locations Near Greenbelt

School Sites

Five school sites will provide breakfast (see times below) and lunch (12:30-1 p.m.) Monday through Thursday, July 1 through August 7.

Vansville Elementary, 6813 Ammendale Road, Beltsville. Breakfast: 9-9:30 a.m.

William Hall Academy, 5200 Marlboro Pike, Capitol Heights. Breakfast: 9:30-10 a.m.

Fairmont Heights High School, 6501 Columbia Park Road, Landover. Breakfast: 9:30-10 a.m.

Northwestern High School, 7000 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville. Breakfast: 9:30-10 a.m.

Oxon Hill High School, 6701 Leyte Drive, Oxon Hill. Breakfast: 9-9:30 a.m.

Community Sites

Nearby sites at libraries will provide lunch from 12:30-1 p.m. Monday through Thursday, July 7 through August 6*.

Beltsville Library, 4319 Sellman Road, Beltsville

Glenarden Library, 8724 Glenarden Parkway, Glenarden

Hyattsville Library*, 6530 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville

New Carrollton Library, 7414 Riverdale Road, New Carrollton

**The Hyattsville Library site is open Monday through Friday and will serve lunch on August 7.*

FESTIVITIES continued from page 1

PHOTO BY TOM JONES

The firework celebration at Buddy Attick Park on July 4, 2023

Before the fireworks begin, attendees will hear a public reading of the Declaration of Independence followed by the National Anthem. Local favorite Greenbelt Honk! Situation will perform, along with other family-friendly activities.

City crews begin preparations early on July 4. "Our Public Works team as well as the vendor get out there around 10 a.m. to start setting everything up," Wisniewski said.

For safety, portions of Buddy Attick Park surrounding Greenbelt Lake will be closed throughout the day. Park rangers, police officers and Public Works staff will manage traffic, pedestrian access and restricted areas, while ensuring emergency vehicle access.

Public Works Director Brian Kim said cleanup occurs before the event concludes. "Department of Public Works staff are actively cleaning throughout the event," Kim said. "Employees monitor trash, collect debris as it falls and continue cleanup immediately after the celebration until the park is restored."

The celebration requires months of coordination among Public Works, Greenbelt Police Department, park rangers, recreation staff and volunteers. Wisniewski also recognized Recreation Coordinator Patrick Mullen for overseeing logistics.

"He's out there from early morning until late at night making sure all the moving pieces come together," Wisniewski said. "Safety is always one of the biggest priorities."

Greenbelt is also hosting a July 3 community celebration at Roosevelt Center and Greenbelt Cinema featuring music, drum circle activities, film screenings and family-friendly entertainment

See **FESTIVITIES**, page 9

CITIZEN continued from page 1

make Greenbelt a better place.

The 2026 Outstanding Citizen will be announced on the evening of Friday, September 4 near the start of the Labor Day Festival. Local businesses have set aside prizes for the winner, and local officials are ready to proclaim the accomplishments of one of our neighbors. Help the committee identify them by nominating someone whose contribution should be recognized.

If you've nominated someone not chosen in a prior year, don't be discouraged — try again. You may wish to include more information about your nominee's volunteer experience or letters of support from more people. The committee receives many excellent nominations each year, but has to choose only one recipient. Submit your nomination now to ensure that person is considered for this important community tradition!

2026 Greenbelt Outstanding Citizen Nomination Form

Submit your nomination by **August 1** to

Tom Jones
Outstanding Citizen Committee
1 Woodland Way Unit C, Greenbelt MD 20770
or **OutstandingCitizenGB@gmail.com**

Name of Nominee: _____

Address: _____

Attach a statement describing why this nominee deserves recognition as Greenbelt's Outstanding Citizen.

You can include a list of organizations or activities in which the nominee has participated, including length of time, specific accomplishments, their impact upon Greenbelt or people within the City, and personal qualities that make the nominee special. Note this award is for *unpaid* volunteer work only.

Others' testimonialsor supporting material, are useful but not required.

You may be contacted for additional information. If you prefer, send this form now and complete the statement later. The form and any additional information must be received no later than the **August 1 deadline**.

Nominated by:

Name(s) Signature(s) Telephone

_____

We need your input—thank you!

BARC Scientists Get Relocation Orders; Told to Report by Oct. 5

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On Monday, June 29, the remaining (non-union) scientists on the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) campus received relocation letters. They were given the deadline of July 29 to commit to the move and a requirement to report to duty in their new location on October 5, a Greenbelt scientist told the News Review. As of the end of the day on Monday, union workers, including technicians, farm crew and administrative staff, had not received letters, said the source. One Greenbelt resident who is a research technician at BARC, and part of the union, told the News Review he too learned which state he is being relocated to on Monday, but received only verbal notification. The "regular scientific employees" had not received any written notifications due to union negotiations, he said.

The BARC scientist we spoke with, who is now assigned to a new site over 1,000 miles from Greenbelt, said he's still unsure if he will move or not, noting his wife is tied to the area professionally. He had been hoping for a position that would still be on the East Coast. He shared the sense of devastation among his team and the reluctance of younger folks to move, too. "They don't care about the loss of science and community," he said of the current administration. "There is a long-term cost to science," he told the News Review, while noting the harmful decisions seem politically driven, "punishing certain demographics and regions."

PHOTO BY MARK SHERMAN

A view of BARC on August 30, 2025

The research technician, still waiting for his formal notification, said some units within labs had not been allocated any funding — including the soybean and climate change groups — and it is unclear if they are being relocated or eliminated.

The maximum compensation for those who resign rather than relocate has been set at $25,000, said one source, which the other separately shared as the amount being offered as a buyout.

The Greenbelt community has been supportive of their BARC residents and neighbors with yard signs, rallies, letters and articles, reflected the Greenbelt BARC scientist, who wasn't sure what else could be done.

"There are still some efforts to push back but those seem unlikely in this climate," he reflected.

The research technician thought only a lawsuit from members of Congress might be able to stop the move now. "This is the beginning of the fight if anyone decides to," he told the News Review Tuesday, "unfortunately the compliant people are in charge."

Report Council Meetings For the News Review

Council Meetings, like birthdays or pizza, seem to be an inevitable part of Greenbelt life. So much so that we are always in need of News Review writers to help cover them. And coming up is the perfect opportunity for you to learn how! A class on journalism, with particular relish for council stories, is scheduled for Saturday, July 11 from 2 to 4:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Registration is required. Write to Admin@greenbeltnewsreview.com to find out more and reserve a spot.

What's the Commitment?

It is likely that the number of council meetings may diminish from two per week most of the year as it is now. There is already an extended recess in the summer and a there are a few weeks off in December. But it is unlikely to drop below an average of four to six per month. We ask writers to contemplate doing at least one story per month — more is merrier.

A meeting lasts two to two-and-a-half hours and can be attended in person or watched online either at the time of the meeting or later. Writing time depends on the individual but is generally an additional two to four hours of work.

Who Fits?

We need the kind of doughty writer who can cover hell or high water, ignore platitudes and go for the gist. Say this sounds like you!

Part of the News Review's DNA is to cover council and though it's not as much fun or as photogenic as, say, a soapbox derby, or as dramatic as attempts to dismember NASA or BARC, it is a key part of our service to our community. We take it seriously.

What About You?

Like to write but never been a journalist? Feeling a bit timid? Fear not! Like any specialized type of writing, there's a formula behind it and if you can write one kind of prose, another's not so hard. There's no charge for this 2.5-hour class, but spots are limited. To join us, email Admin@greenbeltnewsreview.com. To find out more, call 301-655-7008.

Where better to earn your spurs than one of the nation's surviving small city newspapers and the home of Supreme Court freedom of the press victor, the Greenbelt News Review.

Note: Attending the class is no guarantee of an assignment with the News Review. We are a worker cooperative and our remuneration, if you choose to accept it, is limited to a modest dividend for a requested story and photo. We also invite writers to submit stories and photos based on their own interests (for which we don't pay), but this class is expressly council oriented.

Fort Stevens Day Reenactment Will Take Place Saturday, July 11

PHOTO COURTESY JOYCE BAILEY

Greenbelter Joyce Bailey (left), a member of FREED, Female RE-Enactors of Distinction, participated in Fort Stevens Day last year with cadets and other reenactors. Fort Stevens Day this year will be Saturday, July 11 and commemorates the 162nd anniversary of the Union victory in the Battle of Fort Stevens, which took place in our Nation's Capital on July 11, 1864. Abraham Lincoln (wearing his stovepipe hat) rode out to see the battle and was almost shot there.

This year there will be reenactors, speakers, food and more. The land around the fort was owned by Elizabeth Proctor Thomas, an African American woman. Fort Stevens is located west of Georgia Avenue, south of the old Walter Reed hospital grounds.

QUIET 4TH continued from page 1

"We wanted to provide an alternative for people to enjoy the celebration," Gulledge said. "It gives people a familiar, comfortable place where they can celebrate without the large crowds or fireworks. We're opening up our offerings to people who have different needs or wants."

The addition also celebrates Roosevelt Center businesses by encouraging visitors to spend time in Greenbelt's historic district before Saturday's festivities move to Buddy Attick Park.

Cam Crossett is a University of Maryland graduate student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism interning with the Greenbelt News Review.

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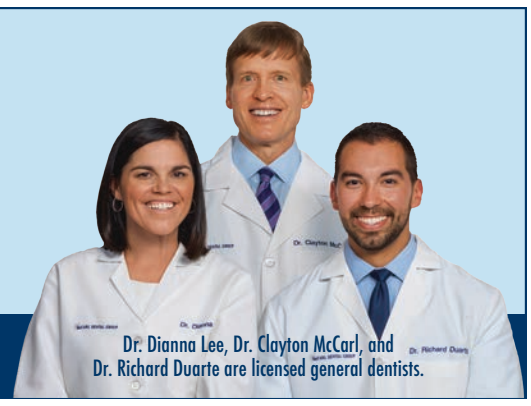

Dr. Dianna Lee, Dr. Clayton McCarl, and Dr. Richard Duarte are licensed general dentists.

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Nugent & Kash named the 2026 Face of Prince George's County Real Estate by Washingtonian Magazine.

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BAYLY continued from page 1

liberty for many, but perpetuated slavery for others.

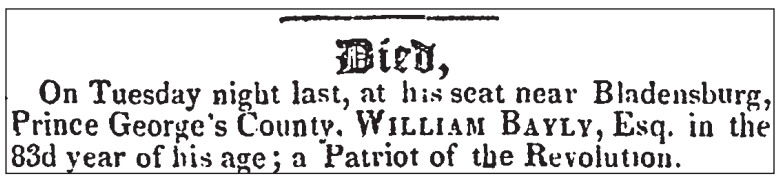
Born sometime in the 1740s (sources vary), Bayly moved as a young man to Montgomery County (then still part of Frederick County), where by 1768 he was styled a "surveyor" in deeds for lands he bought and sold. When stirrings of rebellion began, Bayly joined the Patriot cause early, serving on the committees of observation and correspondence for Frederick County from 1774 to 1775. He was apparently well regarded, for he was elected to Maryland's first constitutional convention in 1776 and later to the state legislature from newly created Montgomery County. He also was the captain of a militia company. He was often referred to as "Captain Bayly" for many years thereafter. His contributions to the Revolutionary cause are documented in the Archives of Maryland Online.

After the war, deeds described Bayly as a "merchant of Georgetown," but the nature of his mercantile business is not clear. He was, however, an active land speculator in town lots in Georgetown and rural land in Maryland and the District of Columbia. He also owned a huge tract of land (more than 14,000 acres) in Georgia.

Bayly married Susanna Fraser Hawkins in 1769. Around 1790 they and their children relocated from Georgetown to the Potomac River plantation Blue Plains, which had belonged to Susanna's late brother. It was a working plantation that also included a landing for the herring fishery. A ferry ran from Blue Plains over to Alexandria, Va. Newspaper ads called it "Bayly's Ferry."

While living at Blue Plains, Bayly was appointed a justice of the peace, which entitled him to a seat on the county court. When the District of Columbia was set off and its government established in 1801, Blue Plains fell into D.C. He expected to retain his position as a justice for the District, but he was not appointed. He wrote to President John Adams, "I feel my self very much hurt at it, and I cannot think you wou'd hurt the feelings of any man Especially one who had never Injured you, but had done every thing in his power for you. Will you be so Oblijeing [sic] as to Inform me by a line particularly on this Subject." John Adams' Presidential papers online do not include a reply.

At the same time, financial difficulties were closing in on him. Bayly began liquidating many of the lands he had purchased to pay his debts. One suit against him claimed that he represented himself "as a man of fortune and



Died,
On Tuesday night last, at his seat near Bladensburg, Prince George's County, WILLIAM BAYLY, Esq. in the 83d year of his age; a Patriot of the Revolution.

COURTESY ALAN VIRTA

Death notice of William Bayly in the Washington Republican newspaper in 1824

worth many thousand pounds beyond the extent of his debts." In 1803 his bankruptcy was announced in Washington newspapers, and his creditors were summoned to a meeting at Semmes Tavern in Georgetown to lay forth their claims against him.

Bayly lost Blue Plains in the course of his bankruptcy. Where he lived immediately after is not clear, but by 1810 he was living at Silver Hill, Md., off present-day Branch Avenue, less than a mile south of the District line. He left Silver Hill by 1818, the year he purchased 255 acres of the tract Pleasant Hill, a long rectangular parcel of land that stretched along the east side of Edmonston Road in what is now Greenbelt Park, from Good Luck Road north to Westchester Park Drive. Here he established a farm that would be his last home.

Unfortunately, Bayly found that trying to manage a farm at his age proved to be a mistake. In a newspaper ad announcing his desire to sell the property only two years after he bought it, he candidly admitted, "I am so old and infirm that I can do nothing, nor see after any thing, which is really and truly the reason why I sell it." Otherwise, his description of the property was glowing.

"The improvements are a comfortable dwelling house, just built, 6 rooms and 4 fire places, kitchen, barn, corn house, stables, smoke house, & a large pailed in garden, fruit of all kinds, very good. Eighty acres meadow ground, a good deal of it cleared & in timothy, sowed last fall, fire wood & fence rails in the greatest plenty. ... There is now sowed on this place between 20 and 30 acres of rye, and about 10 acres of wheat, clover, and plaster, and will, in the course of next week, be sown about 20 acres of oats. All the corn ground is broken up, and a great many seeds sewn and planted in the garden." A glaring omission is any mention of tobacco. Already the crop was losing its place of prominence in northern Prince George's County, though some other farmers in Greenbelt kept producing it for a generation more.

So how was the cultivation accomplished on Bayly's farm in Greenbelt Park despite his age and infirmity? The 1820 census tells the tale. By then in his 70s, he had been a widower for at least 10 years, but other members of his family still lived with him. So too, did six enslaved African Americans who presumably did much of the farm labor. Their names are unknown, as only the names of heads of households were recorded on the census schedules at that time. Like so many of the Founders from the Southern states, Bayly was deeply enmeshed in the "peculiar institution." Ten years earlier, while he was still at Silver Hill, 18 enslaved persons were counted in his household; 20 years earlier (in 1800), 20 enslaved persons were at Blue Plains.

Bayly was successful in finding a buyer for his Greenbelt property in 1820. He soon executed a deed to sell it, but he seems to have continued to live there even after the sale. The buyer lived in Charles County and never moved to Greenbelt. Despite his reduced circumstances, reminders of his previous wealth and social position occasionally arose. In 1823, his name was invoked in a newspaper column touting the character and achievements of John Quincy Adams, then considered a likely candidate for president the following year. William Thornton, who designed the U.S. Capitol, wrote in the National Intelligencer that "the venerable William Bayly ... who I know used often to visit the General [Washington], declared that he also heard the General say, he thought Mr. John Quincy Adams the most promising young man in the United States, and that the General spoke of him in the very highest terms."

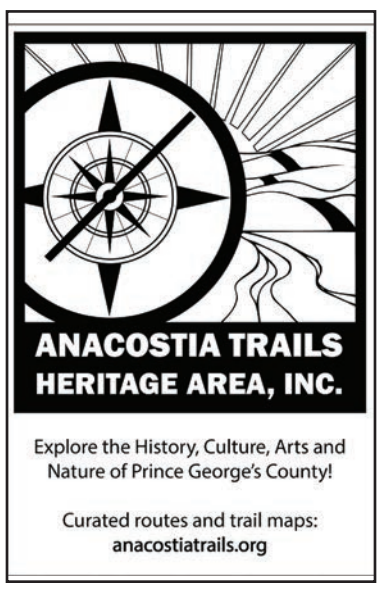
William Bayly died on March 9, 1824. His will is preserved at the Maryland State Archives. No longer owning real estate, he left his personal property to his children, specifying one gold ring to go to his daughter Mary. He also left $30 to "my poor old black man William" to be administered for his benefit by his daughter Rebecca, wife of the Rev. Walter Dulany Addison, an Episcopal priest known for his anti-slavery views. The National Intelligencer announced the sale of Bayly's personal property, "consisting of Negroes, Horses, Mules, Cows, &c. Farming Utensils of every description" to take place on his farm on May 24. An inventory of his estate, which would name the enslaved people on his farm, was not recorded. Other than William, mentioned in his will, their names are unknown.

A year after Bayly died, the owner of Bayly's farm sold it to Alexander Keech of Bladensburg, who renamed the property Waverly and conducted a private school there for many years. After his death, his daughters conducted a "female seminary" at Waverly until 1882. An article in the Baltimore Sun in 1907 recounted a reunion of Waverly alumnae at "the old mansion," which by that time had seen better days. Whether that was the "new house" of Bayly's time or a later one is not known.

Where William Bayly was buried is not documented. It is possible it was on the Greenbelt farm where he died, as was the custom of the day, but there are no records to confirm that. The notice in the National Intelligencer announcing his death was succinct: "Died, on Tuesday night last, at his seat near Bladensburg, Prince George's County, William Bayly, Esq. in the 83d year of his age; a Patriot of the Revolution."

PHOTO BY TOM JONES

The firework celebration at Buddy Attick Park on July 4, 2023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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred June 22-28, 2026. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an inquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Incident Summary

Greenbelt Police reported two deaths, one sexual assault, one mental health diversion and two domestic incidents, one resulting in arrest.

Assault

On June 28 at 1:45 a.m. near 6113 Breezewood Court, a man invited someone he considered a friend into his home. When he asked his guest not to talk so loud on the balcony, a fight resulted in minor injuries.

DUI Arrest

On June 27 at 1:05 a.m. near Breezewood Drive and Cherrywood Lane, officers stopped a vehicle that had run a stop sign. The driver's eyes were bloodshot and glassy, he had a strong odor of alcohol on his breath, his speech was slurred, slow and mumbled, and he admitted to having consumed alcohol at a bar. He was arrested for DUI.

Fraud

On June 22 near 6000 Greenbelt Road, someone stole a credit card and made fraudulent purchases.

On June 23 near 7337 Morrison Drive, a man exchanged correspondence online with someone who then tried to extort money from him.

On June 24 near 170 Westway, a woman applied for a credit card through a bank and was approved, but never received the card. Upon contacting the bank, she learned that unauthorized transactions totaling $780.55 had been made using the account.

Theft and Shoplifting

On June 22 at 1:50 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man concealed merchandise, went past all points of sale and fled on foot.

On June 25 at 3:58 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, two women shoplifters were detained by the store's asset protection staff; officers arrested, charged and banned them from the location.

On June 26 at 6:07 p.m. near 6062 Greenbelt Road, two girls stole merchandise. When the security sensor went off, a manager tried to stop them and one of the girls sprayed mace at the manager. They ran, and a witness told officers their direction; officers found them moments later and arrested them.

On June 27 at 7:38 p.m. near 9142 Edmonston Court, a woman's Uber food order had just been delivered when a man took it and fled.

On June 28 at 8:40 p.m. near 6600 Capitol Drive (Royal Farms), a man and woman stuffed their belongings with items and left without paying.

Vehicle Crimes

Stolen Vehicles

Four vehicles were stolen: on June 24, near 9294 Edmonston Road, a black 2017 Jeep Grand Cherokee; near 137 Westway, a gray 2019 Honda Accord (Md. 7GD9374); and near 6209 Springhill Court, a Ford Fusion (Va. 15975HM) while the owners were away for a few weeks; and on June 25 near 153 Westway, a gray 2025 Honda CR-V (Md. 9GM9428).

Attempted Theft of Auto

On June 26 near 26 Ridge Road, a 2014 Kia Soul was broken into and had ignition damage.

Stolen Vehicles Recovered

On June 23 near 6105 Breezewood Court, officers found a motorcycle stolen from Virginia with a tag (Md. 60949Y) not on file.

On June 26 at 4:21 a.m. near 7800 Good Luck Road, two stolen vehicles were recovered.

Officers went to locate a stolen vehicle and saw it being dropped from a tow truck. The subjects were identified, and photographs were taken; one had a warrant out of Prince George's County and was arrested and transported to the Upper Marlboro Department of Corrections.

Theft from Auto

Five tags were stolen: on June 23 near 7931 Mandan Road, a front tag (Va. TAW6460); on June 24 near 6220 Breezewood Drive (Va. SZE4142); and near 7801 Mandan Road, temporary tag (Md. T2783679); on June 25 near 6220 Breezewood Drive, rear (Va. TTL9885); and near 6122 Breezewood Drive, rear (Va. TAX2378).

All four wheels were stolen from three vehicles: on June 24 near 8150 Lakecrest Drive from a 2025 Toyota Camry; on June 26 near 9146 Edmonston Road from a 2024 Honda Civic; and near 6400 Ivy Lane from a 2026 Honda Civic Sport.

On June 27 near 6000 Springhill Drive, a 2021 Dodge Ram had the rear windshield shattered, and a wallet containing ID and credit cards was taken.

Vandalism to Autos

On June 22 near 9294 Edmonston Road, someone hopped the fence at a lot full of work vehicles and vandalized them: windows were shattered, and vehicles sustained damage from rocks and bricks.

On June 23 near 7907 Mandan Road, someone's tires were slashed for the second time.

On June 27 near 432 Ridge Road, a driver-side tire on a 2025 Kia Niro was vandalized and flattened.

On June 28 near 9234 Edmonston Road, a patrol officer found a 2019 Hyundai Elantra with a broken window.

PHOTO BY TOM BAKER

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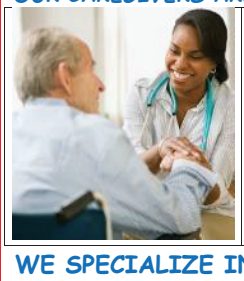

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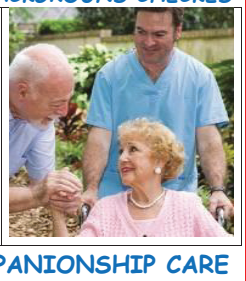

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FESTIVITIES continued from page 6

– but no fireworks.

"We wanted to provide an alternative way for people to enjoy the celebration," Wisniewski said. "It gives people who don't want to be around such large crowds or loud noises another opportunity to participate."

The event may also help local businesses by attracting visitors to Roosevelt Center ahead of the Lake celebration.

For first-time visitors to the Lake, Captain Jermaine Gulledge of the Greenbelt Police Department recommends arriving early and walking or biking if possible. "If you can bike or walk, it's a great way to get to the park and not get caught up in traffic afterward," Gulledge said. "There are many excellent viewing locations around the lake. Get a little creative in where you settle if you don't want to be in the biggest crowds."

Former Greenbelt councilmember Konrad Herling reflected on the tradition of gathering for fireworks. "I love seeing the friends en route to finding a place to sit at the lake and chatting as we walk around the lake or on Crescent Road," Herling wrote. "They make my life more meaningful."

The News Review queried readers on social media about their favorite traditions around the Fourth. While many residents enjoy the traditional fireworks, others raise concerns about noise, wildlife and environmental impacts. "I know many people love the loud noise of the fireworks but I would love for the city to look into the possibility of silent fireworks instead," said resident Christine Doran. "The noise is traumatic for the lake's wildlife (which Greenbelters profess to love the other 364 days of the year) as well as pets, many small children and those with PTSD. Every year our display seems to be bigger, longer and louder, and perhaps that's not a good thing."

Other residents said they, too, are not huge fans of loud noises and understood the concern for wildlife. One wondered if the Greenbelt Symphony would play along with the fireworks instead. Another resident suggested a drone light show would be a way to avoid loud noise and any fire danger.

Resident Michael Hartman said those concerns reflect a broader conversation about fireworks.

"There are real impacts that often get overlooked," Hartman said. "Falling sparks can increase wildlife risk, especially during dry summer conditions, and chemical compounds released into air and water are not insignificant." Hartman also cited noise levels. "Large fireworks can exceed 150 decibels," he said. "That can be extremely distressing for veterans with PTSD, individuals with sensory sensitivities and local wildlife."

Some communities are exploring drone and laser alternatives, noted Hartman. "They're far more eco-friendly because they produce no emissions and no physical waste," he said. "And because they're silent or near-silent, they're more inclusive."

City officials say they continue to evaluate public feedback and alternative technologies but note that traditional fireworks remain strongly supported in Greenbelt.

The Greenbelt Animal Shelter encourages pet owners to keep animals indoors during the celebration and ensure collars, ID tags and microchip information are current, noting shelters see an increase in lost pets after Independence Day.

As Greenbelt prepares for another Independence Day celebration, city leaders say success will be measured not simply by the fireworks overhead, but by the sense of community below. "Our goal is turnout, safety and bringing people together," Wisniewski said. "That's what has made Greenbelt special for so long."

Cam Crossett is a University of Maryland graduate student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism interning with the Greenbelt News Review.

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Participants will serve a minimum of two (2) days per week starting Wednesday, January 13, 2027, and ending Monday, April 12, 2027.

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BOXED: $11.50/column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches ($17.25). Deadline 2 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 6 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads. Certs and Notarizations each $10.

NEEDED: Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.

DROP ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).

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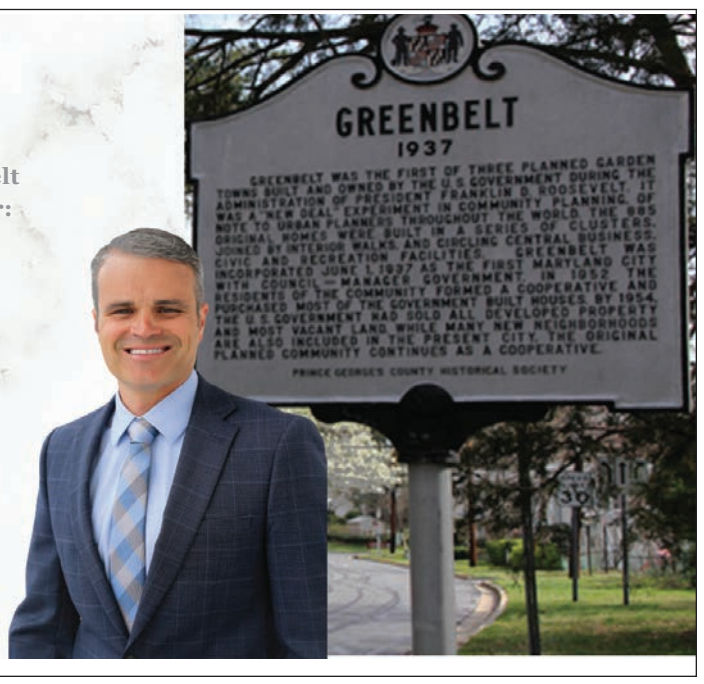

CAMERAS continued from page 1

that violated stop signs received only warning letters in the mail instead of fines. The 1,873 warning letters sent during this period cost the city $9,365. The effort was capped at 2,000 warning letters because the city manager's spending authority is limited to $10,000 by council and the city charter. The program began in the negative because of the cost of sending those warning letters.

Camera Locations

- Southway at Ridge Road
- Ridge Road at Gardenway
- Ridge Road at Laurel Hill Road
- Cherrywood Lane at Breezewood Drive
- Springhill Drive at Edmonston Road
- Springhill Drive at Cherrywood Lane

Speaking to the News Review at the end of June, City Manager Josué Salmerón emphasized that the program was still operating in a deficit as they wait for additional payment revenue to come in. "In short, while payment revenue has begun to come in, the program remains financially behind at this stage because of the upfront warning-letter costs, monthly equipment costs and violation processing costs incurred before all citation payments have been received."

Salmerón also told the News Review that the city had not chosen the cheapest option for camera enforcement, selecting Obvio for its robust protections against data sharing. The traffic data gathered by the cameras remains the property of the city and will not be shared with other agencies or corporations.

Camera Locations

The cameras have been implemented at the following intersections: Southway at Ridge Road, Ridge Road at Gardenway, Ridge Road at Laurel Hill Road, Cherrywood Lane at Breezewood Drive, Springhill Drive at Edmonston Road and Springhill Drive at Cherrywood Lane.

Residents who live near these intersections have been sharing their experiences with the cameras over social media.

Residents' Responses

Lauren Silberman, a resident of Greenbelt, has not received a fine in Greenbelt, but has received similar fines in Glenarden. Silberman noted that she resides in a neighborhood full of children and is a mother herself, and has had concerns in the past about cars speeding by quickly. "I think anything that can help make this area safer for kids, for dog walkers, for bicyclists is a good thing," she said.

When she first received the citation, Silberman shared a sentiment common among many residents: that the ticket was unfair and unwarranted. However, a driver who has received a citation can view a recording of the incident on www.letsdrivesafer.com before paying the fine. According to residents' experiences, this feature has helped drivers better understand the violation and reconsider their driving habits. After watching the video, Silberman said that she accepted that the citation was justified and has since changed her driving behaviors to come to a complete stop at stop signs. "It wasn't until I watched the video that I realized that the reality was not what I thought it was," Silberman said.

Despite the warning period through the month of April, some residents said they did not feel adequately informed. Andy Zmidzinski, another Greenbelt resident, was a recipient of a $40 fine, along with some of his neighbors. He agreed that blowing through stop signs is an issue he has witnessed in Greenbelt; however, he said that he did not receive enough of a warning before the cameras were installed.

"I've actually gone to city council twice and raised this issue, saying that ... I didn't have enough details about what was happening here," he said. Zmidzinski said that the online resources the city council directed him to use to learn more about the program were inaccessible to residents his age.

Dr. Clayton McCarl of the McCarl Dental Group on Ridge Road says their office has taken to warning patients about the cameras in the area when they send appointment messages. Several patients had complained after receiving tickets.

Lisa Anderson, a Greenbelt resident, shared her concerns via Facebook about the fine she received. However, after reviewing the video footage, she said her opinion of the cameras shifted. "I flipped from being against the stop sign camera to for it," she said.

Still, questions remain among some residents about how the city is using the revenue generated by the program. The city is still awaiting payment on 9,231 citations for May, representing a potential $369,240 in additional fine revenue, split between the city and Obvio.

Salmerón says the initiative is about safety, not generating revenue.

"I think a lot of people view this as a cash grab, and I'm not entirely sure it isn't," Silberman said. "But I'm hoping that if it is, it is one that is changing safety for the better."

Charlotte Ormond is a University of Maryland student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism interning with the Greenbelt News Review.

Letters cont. from p.2

someone had lost their cat. "No" was the answer. After more questions, the bottom line is the city will only take this cat to fix it, clip it and then dump it back into the neighborhood. Unacceptable. It's a beautiful young cat still with its kitten features that could have a long and happy life in someone's home.

I adopted three cats from the city shelter in January 2011. The paperwork I was required to sign clearly states that I promise to keep these cats as "indoor cats." In April of 2016, on an exceptionally cold and windy day I saw a small cat hunkered under the birdfeeder. Her stomach was still clean shaven from being fixed and her ear was clipped. I took out food and water and watched as she planted her face in the bowl until all the food was gone. Every day, she would wait in the yard for me to bring out food and wrap herself around me. At the end of April, I brought her into the house, named her Katie and she has been living the life with me for the past 10 years.

I would like to see a better future for this tuxedo cat with the sparkling yellow eyes than what the city is willing to offer it. The reality is these neighborhood cats aren't making it on their own. We, the neighbors, are stepping up to help these animals. I've had enough of finding starving cats under my birdfeeder.

Becky Duncan

City Notes

Public Safety/Community attended Four Cities and National Park Service meetings. Constituent Services hosted a council meet-and-greet at Schrom Hills Park and helped Economic Development with their first Small Business Expo at the Hilton, with 75 participants. Public Information disseminated materials promoting the Expo and the primary election, hosted by the Community Center.

Code Enforcement inspected Motiva apartments, Beltway Plaza, three commercial suites and 14 rentals and issued two permits.

Animal Shelter residents are six cats, eight kittens and five dogs after one cat adoption.

Public Works prepared Buddy Attick Park for July 4th festivities and set up furnishings for Community Center events and summer camp performances.

Recreation finished the first session of summer camps. Arts presented Creative Camp performances and Therapeutic Recreation hosted an art social and a tech café for seniors.

The Museum welcomed summer campers to learn about shallow boats in the Revolutionary War.

The Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) program's monthly food distribution served 317 residents in 142 households.

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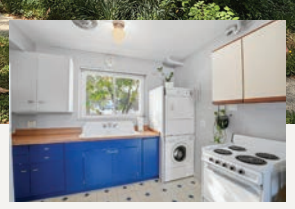

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As the U.S. Celebrates Its 250th Birthday: Thoughts of Beginnings

by Michael Hartman

While 1776 and 1937 represent very different eras, the creation of the United States and the city of Greenbelt were both radical social and political experiments born from a desire to build an ideal society during a time of crisis. Both faced fierce criticism: separating from England seemed treasonous, while the new federally planned city seemed communistic to its detractors.

Neither was an accident of history. Both were intentional projects — one national, one municipal — built around philosophies of how people should live together, reflecting optimism that society could be redesigned around shared ideals: political liberty and representative government in one case, economic security and community in the other.

Here are some of the ways these two historic founding moments connect.

Utopian and Experimental Origins

Both were purposeful political creations addressing societal needs, and both were dismissed by critics as "radical" for breaking with convention and establishing new societies under fresh rules. Each represented a new form of political community built on principles of liberty and social welfare — applying untested ideas about democratic self-governance and challenging the existing order.

Greenbelt is often described as a "living experiment" of the New Deal, much as historians describe the United States as an "experiment in democracy." The federal government designed Greenbelt as a planned, cooperative community — exploring new ideas in urban planning and economic cooperation rather than letting the town grow organically. Critics called it "socialistic" and objected to a federally planned town.

The founding of the United States was a deliberate break from distant rule, establishing a new polity based on consent of the governed, written compacts and civic participation. Greenbelt, designed with a pedestrian-centered layout, shared amenities and resident cooperatives, tested a similarly participatory model of local life.

A Response to National Crisis

Both the United States and Greenbelt emerged because existing systems were failing large numbers of people, and both set out to build a new model of society rather than simply extend an existing one.

The birth of the nation was a direct response to the political and economic crisis of British colonial rule. Greenbelt was a direct response to the Great Depression: its construction provided jobs for the unemployed, and the town itself was designed to offer affordable, high-quality housing for low-income families struggling in the wake of the economic collapse.

Pioneering

Both saw citizenship not just as residence, but as participation in a shared civic project.

Greenbelt was the first municipality in Maryland to adopt a council-manager form of government. Early residents considered themselves pioneers of a new, cooperative way of life; applicants had to demonstrate good standing and commit to participating in the town's cooperative institutions, a system explicitly designed to cultivate community spirit.

Both depended on citizen involvement to function. From its earliest years, the United States relied on citizen participation in local and national government. Greenbelt developed a strong tradition of citizen committees and cooperatives that remains part of its identity today.

Both were also meant to serve as models: America's founders hoped the new republic would demonstrate that democratic self-government could succeed, while Greenbelt's planners intended it to show how thoughtful urban planning and public investment could produce healthier, more equitable communities.

And both embodied new ideas about the role of government. The United States introduced a constitutional republic based on popular sovereignty. Greenbelt represented an innovative vision of how government could improve everyday life through planned communities, affordable housing, green space and cooperative institutions.

Ideals vs. Reality

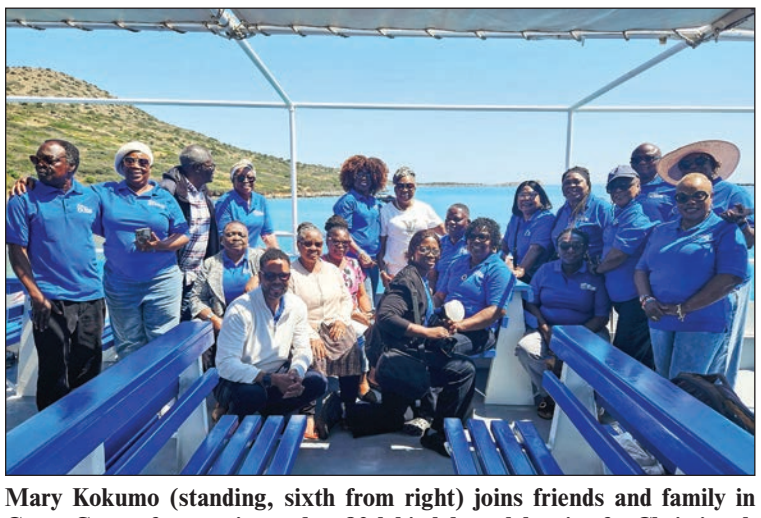
Both creations were founded on high ideals that initially excluded large portions of the population. The Declaration of Independence declared "all men are created equal," yet slavery remained legal and widespread. Greenbelt, though built by both Black and white workers, was established as a segregated, all-white community under the discriminatory policies of its era; it did not begin to integrate until the late 1960s. Religiously, however, the town was more inclusive: its population was about 63 percent Protestant, 30 percent Roman Catholic and 7 percent Jewish, mirroring the makeup of the surrounding metropolitan area.

Initial Federal Control

Both were top-down creations: Greenbelt was developed under New Deal programs to provide affordable housing and test cooperative planning, while the founding of the U.S. established a new republic under the Constitution, ratified in 1787 after independence in 1776. Just as the young United States was guided by the Continental Congress, Greenbelt was managed in its early years by a federal director, having been created by the U.S. Resettlement Administration under President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the nation's independence and approach Greenbelt's 90th anniversary in 2027 — alongside the findings of the Greenbelt Reparations Commission and the completion of the Greenbelt Museum and Visitor Center expansion — we are undertaking a deeper investigation of our community, both internally and in the context of the larger society.

Family Trip to Crete, Greece



Mary Kokumo (standing, sixth from right) joins friends and family in Crete, Greece for vacation and an 80th birthday celebration for Christianah Adeyeri (standing, center, in white shirt).

Grace Olaniyan (left) and Victoria Etuk read the News Review that Mary Kokumo brought on vacation in Crete.

- Photos courtesy Mary Kokumo

News Review volunteer Mary Kokumo visited the Greek island of Crete in May to celebrate the 80th birthday of Christianah Adeyeri, her "sister from another mother." She joined friends and family from the U.S., Canada, the U.K. and Nigeria. They stayed at Mitsis Solution Laguna, a luxury beach resort in Heraklion, Crete, toured the island and enjoyed local hospitality, food, drink and entertainment. Mary is recently retired from 26 years of service as church administrator and office manager at the Jesus House, DC, in Silver Spring and plans to travel more in the future.

Commission on Reparations Presents Draft Recommendations

by Lynne Slater

PHOTO BY LYNNE SLATER

Reparations Commission town hall on June 27

Approximately 50 city residents attended the Greenbelt Commission on Reparations' third town hall meeting Saturday afternoon, June 27. The Commission was established by voter referendum in November 2021 to explore population data, historical discrimination and its contemporary impacts. With that information in hand, they were to then assess harms done to African American and Native American peoples in Greenbelt. They were also charged to recommend reparations based on that research for healing and repairing those harms. The purpose of Saturday's meeting was to present draft reparations for past actions of discrimination specific to the African American community and solicit feedback on and input to those recommendations. A future meeting will be held to address reparations to the Native American community.

Robert Thurston, president of the Lakeland Civic Association and a member of the Lakeland/College Park Commission for Restorative Justice, told the story of that commission's work. The Commission addressed the harm that resulted from the razing of 104 of the 150 homes in the all-Black community of Lakeland under the guise of urban renewal. The City of College Park issued a formal apology, installed a historical marker and established the Lakeland Legacy Project. Through one aspect of this project, residents of the destroyed homes or their descendants can apply to the Lakeland Legacy Member Program. This program provides a vehicle for members to influence College Park's decisions on Lakeland.

Prior to the discussion of the Greenbelt Commission's recommendations, Chair James Williams Jr. stressed that the issues being worked on by the committee are inherited history, a default of society rather than an individual responsibility. However, he emphasized that we as a group have the opportunity to influence positive change.

The Greenbelt Commission requested feedback on over 50 remedies. They grouped them into three categories: Housing, Education and Good Governance. The town hall participants self-selected into three equal-sized discussion groups.

Housing

From Greenbelt's establishment until 1952, Greenbelt policy prohibited African Americans from purchasing homes. African American workers who helped build the city under the Works Progress Administration (WPA) program were not permitted to apply to live here. Redlining, GHI screening, "standard" lending practices and outspoken opposition to housing integration in the 1960s indicate long-term prevention of African Americans from home ownership in Greenbelt. Two specific harms were identified within this category: Housing Discrimination and Unsafe Living Conditions for Renters. An example of a proposed housing reparation is to request a grant that would establish a fund to provide down payment assistance to descendants of African Americans who worked to build Greenbelt, African Americans who grew up in Greenbelt and would like to purchase a home and African Americans who have lived here for a period of six years and want to buy a home.

Education

Education history in Greenbelt reflects housing segregation and the resistance to desegregation of schools in Prince George's County. The identified harm is education disparities which reinforce social and economic inequality. The group discussion generated suggestions which include dedicated scholarships for African Americans to attend state universities and a program to provide books by African American authors to families and/or school libraries.

Good Governance

The city is responsible for setting policy which can facilitate reparation, dismantle systemic racism and create sustainable policy that is free from bias. The arenas of transportation, lack of citywide information distribution, political participation and inadequate recreational opportunities were identified as harms and many remedies have been proposed. However, the primary focus of this section is city acknowledgement, apology and accountability. Two harms are acknowledged: 1) erasure of New Deal construction workers, and 2) segregation, exclusion and the vestiges of a Sundown Town. Recommended reparations include formal apologies, memorials and research projects to identify the African American individuals who contributed to Greenbelt in the past, but were as a matter of policy denied access.

Although all of the Commission's proposals are identifiable with issues confronted by African Americans, most of the remedies are not specifically targeted to benefit that community. For example, constructive and forward-thinking improvements — such as better communication strategies, safer pathways to bus stops or parenting skills workshops are generic. The small group discussions not only highlighted the significance of the recommendations specific to the African American community, they also generated new ideas for the Commission to consider.

Once the Commission has reviewed the input from the town hall meeting and receives feedback from city council, they will post the recommended remedies on their website.

For more information about the Commission's work visit greenbeltreparations.info.